



ASK MONTY

February 5, 2014

Greetings!,

Would you like a horse that is cooperative to the MAX? Watch this video of Monty's work and then scroll down to Monty's Question and Answer column for tips on how to achieve a great partnership with your horse.



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Monty's Principles

Dear Monty,

In your latest newsletter I read the story of the 54 year old woman who wrote about her fear of horses. A truly courageous story to tell in my opinion because admitting to fear is hardly ever an easy thing to do and for her courage I would first of all like to pay her my deepest respect.

Her story and your answer, however, has raised a few additional questions on the subject of being afraid of horses which I hope you could perhaps answer for me.

Perhaps a little background story is required.

A little more than 6 years ago I had a riding accident. I fell off a runaway horse and though it did not hospitalize me it cost me a visit to the casualty department with a sprung shoulder, a sore back, and a mild concussion of the brain. Also, I discovered when being able to mount a horse again after a couple of weeks, it had made me afraid. Ever since I have tried to fight that fear, firstly by learning all that I possibly can about horse behavior and psychology as well as rider's psychology and also by studying intelligent horsemanship and methods of non conflict horse training. Your methods are, of course, among those I have studied and I admire them very much. Your work is truly inspiring.

All of this has helped me a great deal, yet I still often experience fear especially around large horses and though I agree that a certain

MONTY'S QUESTION AND ANSWER

Question:

I would like to ask a question for Monty: this long ride I did with my friends, we took reserve horse. What would be the safest way to pull it while traveling and how to tie in the saddle safely. Would be using the Dually halter? How to tie the saddle during the long journey?

Monty's Answer:

To answer this question with safety as the preeminent goal, I would need to know a lot more about the training your reserve horse has had and his uptake of it. For the purposes of helping a broad audience of students, I am going to answer this as if your reserve horse has no training in this regard. With no training, you would never tie two horses together in this manner. I am going to share my advice for training your horse to lead from another experienced horse instead. I think you will see the applications.

It is important to never make a demand of the horse, only request. A willing horse that trusts you will be easy to lead because you have established the foundation for that trust. I would like to investigate the things we request of young horses that might frighten them. These can include walking over a bridge, logs, into the water, and by frightening objects. Traditionally, you might have simply ridden the young horse to a scary object and insisted that the horse negotiate the obstacle just because you demanded it.

Whips and spurs have been commonly employed in these procedures. 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. In this regard, I think one of the most effective lessons for your student is to be schooled to walk through water.

It is essential that any horse can be relied upon to negotiate obstacles without endangering his rider. I am not just talking about trail or ranch horses, but all horses should be safe when dealing with potentially frightening obstacles without undue fear or panic. Below, I have chosen to describe negotiating a water hazard. It will help you while training the young horse if you have the following equipment:

1. A [Dually halter](#).
2. An older saddle horse who is perfectly comfortable walking through water.
3. Two competent riders.
4. An acceptable water obstacle, either manufactured or natural, that doesn't have a stony or exceedingly marshy bottom.
5. Two poles (jump poles), minimum 12 feet (approx. 4 meters) in length, and about 4 inches (approx. 10 cm) in diameter.
6. One sheet of plastic or a tarpaulin, minimum 8 feet wide (approx. 2.5 meters) and 12 to 15 feet (approx. 4 to 5 meters) long.

I recommend that you begin this exercise by schooling from the ground with the Dually halter, making sure that the horse is attentive and moves willingly forward and backward, synchronizing with you and listening to your requests with adrenaline down. Review the section on schooling your horse with the Dually halter, and then work to achieve the same degree of responsiveness while leading your student horse from your saddle horse.

Once you have a responsive student from the back of the saddle horse, you can move to the next step, which is to lead from the saddle horse over poles lying on the ground. When you have clear cooperation over the poles, spread your plastic or tarpaulin and border it on either side with the poles. Ride over the poles and across the plastic. If your student refuses the plastic at first, you should roll it up and repeatedly walk over it, gradually unrolling it until your horse will walk over it fully spread between the poles.

Having accomplished all the necessary schooling with the Dually and negotiated the poles and the plastic, you are ready to attempt to cross the water. Do not try to lead your horse into the water from the ground; it can be very dangerous. Lead your student from the back of your saddle horse, attempting to have your student follow you and your mount through the water. Many will respond quickly.

If your horse refuses to lead forward and into the water, school by riding your saddle horse into the shoulder of your student and back him in circles at the edge of the water. Eventually, you will have his hind feet in the water and you can ride into his shoulder, turning his forelegs into the water. Be generous with your praise and congratulations by rubbing your student on the neck during moments of cooperation.

Once you have achieved the position of having the student horse with all four feet in the water, you can lead on through. Immediately repeat the process several times until the horse negotiates the water obstacle comfortably. If further resistance is met and you are concerned with safety, add a step of wet or muddy ground between the plastic obstacle and the water obstacle. This usually instills confidence in your student and gives you a better chance to negotiate the water.

When your student is following the saddle horse through the water with a calm attitude, tack him up and repeat the process while he is wearing the saddle and bridle with the Dually halter under the bridle. After this, you can add a rider and begin to lead through the water from the saddle horse. Once your student is negotiating the water with the rider, detach the lead and allow the student and rider to follow the saddle horse. As a final step, your student should negotiate the water obstacle with the rider up and no other horse present.

THIS WEEK IN MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNI

THIS WEEK ON EQUUS ONLINE...



TRAINING THE YOUNG HORSE: FIRST WEEK
DAY 3 LESSON 1: BRAKES AND STEERING



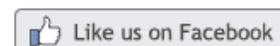
amount of respect is required when handling such large and strong animals I must also acknowledge that my fear and insecurity rubs off on the horse I'm working with because subsequently my fear signals to the horse that danger is ahead. How would you recommend that I address this problem? How can I become a confident friend and leader to my horse if I cannot hide that I am afraid which seems to me an impossible endeavor due to the horses' sensibility?

I truly hope that you can give me some advice. Thank you.

Best regards, Louise

p.s. Please excuse whatever mistakes I might have made in grammar and spelling. I am Danish so English is not my native language.

[**Editors note:** this will be answered in next week's column]



MONTY'S CHALLENGE

This week's challenge is located in Monty's Principles column above.

INSTRUCTORS' MEET UP!

The evening of May 14 (Monty's Birthday!) will kick off the Instructors Meet-Up at Flag Is Up Farms with an additional Special Clinic for Instructors on May 19-20. Monty will be demonstrating and sharing the latest developments, introducing his Ritualistic Habituation discoveries. Dr. William Miller from the University of New Mexico, father of Motivational Interviewing, will be Monty's guest educator with colleague Dr. Teresa Moyers. Also Kris Robins, Canada, will be there to present how she shared MI concepts and their parallels to Monty's concepts of a Horse Sense and Soldiers training. This event is for certified Instructors from the world over. Watch for updates on MontyRoberts.com and on Facebook.com/MontyRoberts

Brian Russell's Scribe



Brian Russell lives near us in the Santa Ynez Valley and my wife Pat and I have known Brian and his wife Cheryl for many years. A while back Brian handed me a manuscript as I was leaving for England. The story was so compelling, I read the whole book on the flight over the pole. I can't wait for you to read it too on Amazon/Kindle!

Download a free excerpt: <http://scribewriter.com/scribe/BrianRussell.pdf>

In this week's video lesson on [Equus Online University](http://www.montyrobertsuniversity.com), Monty and certified instructor Courtney Dunn show us how to turn and stop a young horse on the long lines.

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?

March 4-8, 2014	Monty's Special Training in English and Portuguese coming to Flag Is Up Farms! 5 dias de curso intensivo com o 'Encantador de Cavalos' em sua fazenda Flag Is Up Farms. Contact admin@montyroberts.com for more information in English or Portuguese.	USA
March 9, 2014	NEW DATE! Joining Up: What Horses Can Teach Us About Leadership Call (805) 688-6288 or email admin@montyroberts.com for more info.	USA
March 15, 2014	The Hand Equestrian Centre, Davis Lane, Clevedon, N. Somerset, BS21 6TG	UK
March 21, 2014	Norton Heath Equestrian Centre Limited, Fingrith Hall Lane, Blackmore, Essex, CM4 0JP	UK
March 29, 2014	CHANGE OF VENUE: Plumpton College, Ditchling Road, Near Lewes, Plumpton, East Sussex BN7 3AE	UK
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
April 13, 2014	Gestüt Tannenhof , Heidenrod-Watzelhain (bei Wiesbaden)	DE



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/

Now Playing: Young People and Young Horses Across the World



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.

Listen in... <http://www.horsemanshipradio.com/>

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

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

Traveling around the world we meet horsepersons from New Zealand to Sweden who share their love of Horsemanship. Leigh Wills, Ann Lindberg plus, Ada Gates shares a master horsemanship tip.

Brought to you by Index Fund Advisors, www.IFA.com

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

"Captivating from beginning to end, this novel has everything; powerfully drawn characters and a love that endures through the centuries. Save me a seat at the movie premier. Five stars!" Monty Roberts

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!

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/>

Please note that Dish TV has moved the HRTV channel position to 398.

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

LIFE LESSONS FROM MONTY EXCERPT

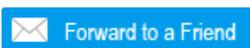
Enjoy a Free Excerpt Each Month of Life Lessons from The Man Who Listens to Horses

[CLICK HERE](#) to read this month's excerpt!

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

